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2020-12-17

Dear Sir / Madam,

West Sussex Transport Plan Review survey

Railfuture is Britain's leading, longest-established, national independent voluntary organisation campaigning exclusively for a better railway across a bigger network for passenger and freight users, to support economic (housing and productivity) growth, environmental improvement and better-connected communities.

We seek to influence decision makers at local, regional and national levels to implement pro-rail policies in transport and development planning.

We respond below to the principal questions in the online survey:

Key issues affecting the West Sussex Transport Plan

- ~ Tackling Climate Change
- ~ Supporting the Local Economy
- ~ Providing Access For All
- ~ Improving Safety, Security and Health
- ~ Protecting the Environment and Quality of Life

4. How important do you think each of the following transport issues are in West Sussex?

Tackling Climate Change

- ~ Greenhouse gas emissions from transport – fairly important
- ~ Resilience of the transport network to the impacts of climate change – very important

Supporting the Local Economy

- ~ Network performance and connectivity (e.g. congestion and journey times) – very important
- ~ Accommodating planned development and regeneration – very important
- ~ Impacts of COVID-19 on the economy and travel behaviour – fairly important

www.railfuture.org.uk www.railfuturescotland.org.uk www.railfuturewales.org.uk
www.railwatch.org.uk

Providing Access For All

- ~ Transport options and interchange facilities (e.g. bus stops and stations) are limited or not accessible – very important
- ~ Employment, education, healthcare and services are not available locally (i.e. within walking and cycling distance) – fairly important
- ~ Cost of using the transport system – fairly important
- ~ Digital connectivity is limited or not available – fairly important

Improving Safety, Security and Health

- ~ Road safety is no longer improving – very important
- ~ Transport network impacts on poor public health and well-being – very important
- ~ Healthy travel choices are not available – very important
- ~ The perception of risk means that walking, cycling and public transport are not viable options – very important

Protecting the Environment and Quality of Life

- ~ The impacts of the transport network on the local natural and built environment – very important

5. Are there any other key issues that you think are missing from the list above? Please provide your comments below.

- ~ Strategic Context: the relationship between WSCC and its Transport Plan and other key bodies such as Transport for the South East and Coast to Capital LEP and their plans
- ~ Place-making: the relationship between WSCC as a transport authority and its districts as local planning authorities in shaping successful and sustainable communities
- ~ Delivery Mechanisms and Effectiveness: a realistic assessment of the extent of WSCC's ability through its Transport Plan to make or influence change aligned with its objectives.

Tackling Climate Change possible interventions

6. Please rank the following (10) interventions for Tackling Climate Change in order of priority.

- ~ Encourage use of sustainable modes of transport – 1
- ~ Transition to zero emission vehicles – 5
- ~ Reduce car ownership through car clubs / shared ownership – 4
- ~ Develop car free urban centres – 3
- ~ Reduce the need to travel through high quality digital connectivity e.g. home working and online service access – 9
- ~ Reduce the need to travel by ensuring new developments, places of work, education, facilities and services are located close together – 2
- ~ Adapt infrastructure to the impacts of a changing climate – 6
- ~ Support habitat creation to mitigate residual greenhouse gas emissions – 8
- ~ Maximise the re-use or recycling of materials in construction, and consider the carbon impacts of new materials for construction – 7
- ~ Other possible intervention: Support the development of road user charging to facilitate modal shift of passengers and freight to less carbon-intensive modes – 10

Supporting the Local Economy possible interventions

7. Please rank the following (9) interventions for Supporting the Local Economy in order of priority.

- ~ Increase highway capacity in towns – 9
- ~ Increase highway capacity on the main road links between economic centres along the West Sussex coast e.g. the A27 and A259 – 8
- ~ Increase highway capacity on the main road links between economic centres in the north and south of the county i.e. the A23 and A24 – 7
- ~ Improve the capacity, speed, quality and reliability of rail services between West Sussex and London – 3
- ~ Improve the connectivity, quality and reliability of rail services between towns in West Sussex and other regional economic centres such as Southampton, Guildford or destinations in Kent – 1
- ~ Improve the quality of bus services to town centres and employment locations – 5
- ~ Improve the quality and connectivity of cycling and walking connections to increase ease of access to town centres and employment locations – 4
- ~ Develop a more efficient freight transport infrastructure (including collection centres) to reduce costs to businesses – 6
- ~ Other possible intervention: Improve the connectivity of rail services between coastal towns in West Sussex and regional economic centres in the Western Gateway region – 2

Providing Access For All possible interventions

8. Please rank the following (11) interventions for Providing Access For All in order of priority.

- ~ Improve digital connectivity so that there is wide online access to services – 8
- ~ Improve the provision of services locally (e.g. local libraries, health care facilities, shops and jobs) to enable physical access – 4
- ~ Improve the coverage of local bus services to enable wide access – 5
- ~ Improve the coverage of community transport services to enable wide access – 6
- ~ Reduce the cost of public transport – 11
- ~ Improving the accessibility to public transport services so public transport is accessible to all – 1
- ~ Improve facilities for pedestrians – 3
- ~ Improve facilities for cyclists – 10
- ~ Improve access to car clubs and mobility solutions (e.g. ride-hailing, ride-sharing) – 7
- ~ Improve the ease of car access and parking facilities within service centres – 9
- ~ Other possible intervention: Collaborate with district councils and other sources of potential funding to help match-fund additional Network Rail station Access for All schemes – 2

Improving Safety, Security and Health possible interventions

9. Please rank the following (9) interventions for Improving Safety, Security and Health in order of priority.

- ~ Use engineering measures to reduce accidents (e.g. improving junction and road layouts, traffic calming) [terminology alert: they're collisions, with casualties, not 'accidents'] – 2
- ~ Promote and enforce traffic laws – 5
- ~ Give higher priority to cycling and walking facilities (e.g. segregated facilities) – 4
- ~ Promote active travel such as walking and cycling, and provide training opportunities – 3
- ~ Use school street closures at drop-off/pick-up times – 6

- ~ Ensure there is ample space on footways and cycleways to enable social distancing to mitigate the risk from COVID-19 – 7
- ~ Work with local organisations, transport providers and Sussex Police to improve safety by tackling crime and the fear of crime in relation to travel – 9
- ~ Reduce transport related air, noise and light pollution to reduce health impacts – 8
- ~ Other possible intervention: Support the development of road user charging to facilitate modal shift of passengers and freight, and deliver road traffic, road danger and air pollution reduction – 1

Protecting the Environment and Quality of Life possible interventions

10. Please rank the following (7) interventions for Protecting the Environment and Quality of Life in order of priority.

- ~ Protect the landscape, biodiversity and green infrastructure – 3
- ~ Improve access to the countryside – 5
- ~ Ensure people, wildlife and habitats are protected from the impacts of air pollution – 4
- ~ Ensure that traffic noise does not impact people or the wider environment – 6
- ~ Protect dark skies and minimise the impacts of light pollution – 7
- ~ Improve the 'streetscape' to ensure places are attractive to live in – 1
- ~ Other possible intervention: Support the development of road user charging to facilitate modal shift of passengers and freight to less carbon-intensive and polluting modes – 2

11. Are there any other comments you would like to make about transport priorities for the review of the West Sussex Transport Plan? Please provide your comments below.

It must overtly align its priorities with those of the adopted Transport Strategy for Transport for the South East which WSCC has committed to support.

12. Are you happy to be included on our stakeholder database to receive further information about the West Sussex Transport Plan review?

Yes.

13. Are you happy to be included on our stakeholder database for further information about future transport scheme consultations related to the West Sussex Transport Plan?

Yes.

Yours faithfully,

Roger Blake BA, MRTPI (Rtd), MTPS
Railfuture
Vice-Chair London & South East regional branch
Director for Infrastructure & Networks, national Board